THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (c) Railways construct Road Over/Under Bridges in lieu of existing busy level crossing on cost sharing basis, the proposals for which are sponsored by the State Govt. concerned duly agreeing to share the cost of construction. No such proposal has been received for Road Over Bridge at Dankuni. construction of Road Over Bridge at Liluah is a sanctioned work. Railway will start construction work on Bridge proper after State Govt. takes up work on approaches. Proposal for construction of Road Over Bridge at Mourigram in lieu of Level crossing No.K10/23-25 is under planning with State Govt.

International Flights from Calcutta

165. PROF. JITENDRA NATH DAS : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are considering to operate more international flights from Calcutta;

(b) whether any discussions were held during this year with any foreign countries to increase Air India's flights or to increase flights of foreign airlines from Calcutta; and

(c) if so, the details and outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) to (c). The Government of India is offering various incentives to foreign airlines to operate to Calcutta like the ability to combine Calcutta with other prime gate ways, liberal fifth freedom rights, liberal terms of commercial agreements etc. During the year 1996, Calcutta has been offered as a point of call to the designated airlines of Armenia, Switzerland and Slovak Republic. Australia was granted facility to combine Calcutta with Delhi or Mumbai with effect from 16.10.1996. The actual operations are, however, left to the commercial judgement of the airlines.

Amenities to Passengers at Bally Halt Station

166. SHRI ANIL BASU : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have taken any steps to provide drinking water, shed, sitting arrangement, urinal, latrin, proper lighting at Bally Halt station; and

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reasons for the delay to provide minimum passengers' amenities there?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b) Bally is a suburban station of Calcutta and is provided with amenities commensurate with the volume of passenger traffic handled. Adequate seating arrangements, drinking water, toilets and foot-over-bridge are available. The station is also electrified.

Earnings from Plassey Railway Station

167. DR. ASIM BALA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the earnings from Plassey railway station during the years 1993-94, 1994-95, 1995-96 and upto September, 1996;

(b) whether any steps are being taken to provide minimum amenities like drinking water, sheds, sitting arrangements and toilets, etc. to this station;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether any steps are also being taken to attract more tourists towards this place;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons for neglecting this station?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Total earnings at Plassey railway station during 1993-94, 1994-95, 1995-96 & upto September, 1996 are Rs.14 lakhs, Rs.17.02 lakhs, Rs.22.37 lakhs & Rs.10.35 lakhs respectively.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Plassey railway station is equipped with following amenity items :-

(i) 3 handpumps
1 footover bridge
1 gents waiting room
1 ladies waiting hall
6 Urinals

(ii) Sitting arrangements in Platform No.1 -3.

(iii) Shed on Platform No.1.

(d) to (f). Development of tourism in each state is primarily the responsibility of the State Govt. The Deptt. of Tourism, Govt. of India extends financial assistance to the State/Union Territory Governments for various/ specific schemes based on the proposals received from them subject to the availability of funds and interse priority. So far as Plassey is concerned, neither have the Deptt. of Tourism nor the Railways received any scheme or demand from the State Government or some other agency for developing this as a tourist spot.

Introduction of Express Train between Sealdah and Murshidabad

168. SHRI AJOY MUKHOPADHYAY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the

demand of the people of West Bengal to introduce an express train from Sealdah to Murshidabad in the morning;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the said train to be named as Siraj Express; and

(d) if so, the reasons for the delay to introduce such train?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b). some representations have been received from MPs of the area.

*(c) and (d). There is no proposal at present to introduce an express train from Sealdah to Murshidabad due to operational including line capacity and terminal constraints besides resources constraints.

Air India flights

169. SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Qatar a Gulf country has refused permission to Air India flights to land there;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the action being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) to (c). Qatar Airways were operating their services to India under an ad-hoc entitlement which was bilaterally agreed for a limited period. When this ad-hoc entitlement was not extended, the Civil Aviation Authorities of Qatar refused permission to Air India to operate their services to Doha with effect from 20th and 23rd April, 1995. The matter was taken up at diplomatic level and the permission for Air India's operation to Doha was restored on 23.4.1995. During the period between 20th and 23rd April, 1995 only one scheduled flight of Air India was disrupted.

Daily running of Saraighat Express

170. SHRI UDDHAB BARMAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government are aware of the demand of the people of Assam to run the Saraighat Express (Howrah-Guwahati) daily instead of tri-weekly;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). Some representations have been received in this regard. Running of Saraighat Express daily is at present not feasible due to operational and resource constraints.

Amenities to Passengers at Garifa Railway Station

171. SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that passengers of Garifa Railway station have made a representation to the Railway Authorities for providing minimum passenger amenities and improvement of the said station;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that minimum passenger amenities are not available at this station;

(c) whether the Government propose to improve it due to heavy increase in earning from this station;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken to beautify this station like Hooghly Ghat station?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) to (e). Amenities commensurate with the volume of passenger traffic exist at the station. At a measures of further improvement provision of platform shelter and foot-over-bridge have been sanctioned. Work of repairs/ white washing, repairs to platform fencing & stair case have been taken up to give a facelift.

AIR projects in Kerala

172. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether any developmental Projects proposed to be set up in Kerala during 1996-97 by All India Radio; and

(b) if so, the details thereof, location-wise?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) and (b). the details of the schemes proposed as part of 8th Five Year Plan are given below:

Location	Scheme
1	2
Trivandrum	New Type IV Studio
Trivandrum	Commercial Broadcasting Service - Replacement of 1 KW MW Transmitter with 10 KW FM Transmitter.